



Colorant Environmental & Safety Data

Amerimulch is committed to the safety of homeowners, their pets, our customers, their employees and our environment. Mulch manufactured with Amerimulch colorants is as safe as conventional wood mulch, and just like conventional mulches, it has benefits for the plants, helps conserve water and deters weed growth.

Our colorants have been formulated to be safe and effective providing consumers with mulch that is attractive, safe and cost-effective. We followed recommendations by the Mulch and Soil Council and submitted our Ultra colorant line to an independent, accredited laboratory for testing. The colorants were studied for a variety of dangers from acute exposure, including tests to determine any dangers that could occur through ingestion, inhalation, dermal contact and eye contact. The results showed our colorants qualify for classification in Category IV, the safest category that the testing method recognizes. Here are the areas of safety concern we have addressed, consistent with the industry:

What's in the colorant? Is there anything in the mulch colorant that's dangerous?

Anything can be dangerous, if improperly used in too large a quantity, but Amerimulch colorants are no more dangerous than common household substances like vinegar or liquid dish soap. The primary ingredients in our colorants are pigments based on iron oxides or carbon black, with water as a main carrier. Iron oxide pigments are often used in food container coloring or in cosmetics. While some forms of carbon black can be considered hazardous if they have extremely small particles that are airborne in breathable quantities, the form of carbon black we use in the mulch industry has larger flake sizes that are suspended in liquid until mixed with wood fiber; therefore, the carbon black

we use poses no threat to consumers - or to workers who lay the mulch or work at the yards that produce the mulch.

What about long-term exposure of your colorants to the environment? Are there any concerns about the environmental status of your products?

None of our mulch colorants require any federal environmental reporting under any applicable Federal regulations, including SARA sec 313, RCRA (Resource Conservation & Recovery Act), CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation & Liability Act), and TSCA (Toxic Substance Control Act). However, local and state regulations vary tremendously, and some of the materials in our colorants are subject to local regulations. While we do not



believe that the amounts contained in these materials pose any threat to human health or to pets, plants or fish, they may still require reporting under state and local rules, so ask your Amerimulch sales representative if you need to take special care in handling or reporting the use of Amerimulch colorants.

Do your colorants have any heavy metals, lead or cadmium-based colors that are dangerous?

Heavy metals occur in nature, including soil and wood, in trace amounts. In tests commissioned from independent laboratories, none of our mulch colorants have tested above reporting threshold levels for any heavy metals. That means they contain no more heavy metals than regular wood mulches, or the soil upon which the mulch is placed. Our customers’ satisfaction and product quality are always our primary focus. We do our best to make sure our products are safe and environmentally friendly. See the chart, below, to compare test results of Amerimulch materials to the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) maximum pollutant concentration levels for certain materials allowed in soils and composts:

HEAVY METALS: Regulatory Limits on Heavy Metals Applied to Soils ¹							
Parts Per Million	Arsenic	Cadmium	Chromium	Copper	Lead	Mercury	Zinc
Soil	75	85	3000	4300	420	840	7500
Sunburst Red	<0.79	<25	<100	<250	<15	<0.019	<60
Black	<0.77	<0.38	<1.5	<10	<0.96	<0.02	<1.9
Ameri-Red	<0.75	<20	<75	<35	<5	<0.02	<70

¹Source: Soil Quality - Urban Technical Note No. 3, United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Soil Quality Institute, published September 2000, based on US EPA 1993 regulations.

What are VOCs? Why are they objectionable? Are they in your colorants?

VOC stands for Volatile Organic Compound. Many coatings, such as solvent-based paints, release these chemicals into the atmosphere as coated surfaces dry, which is bad for the ozone layer. Amerimulch colorants are water-based, not solvent-based, but our colorants may contain trace amounts of VOCs. Depending on the shade and color, **they can all be classified as either “VOC-Free” or “Low VOC”** based on EPA guidelines used in the paint industry – the closest industry relevant to our products. Of course, as mentioned before, there is enormous variety in local regulations, and restrictions on air quality that vary from state to state and jurisdiction to jurisdiction. While end consumers have nothing to worry about, mulch producers should check with local air quality regulatory authorities to ensure compliance with all local and state regulations.

If you have any further questions about the safety of our colorants please contact your Amerimulch sales representative.

